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# Newsletter

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



OFFICE FOR FOOD AND FEED CONSERVATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, Secretary of Agriculture  
CHARLES F. BRANNAN, Director

No. 15 April 16, 1948

## WASHINGTON ROUNDUP

The latest crop report is a mixture of good and bad tidings.

Prospects for winter wheat are good and show improvement over conditions last fall, although the estimated production of 860,000,000 bushels is a full two hundred million less than last year's record crop. Thus, there is no cause for undue optimism. And this point is driven home by the fact that a larger acreage of winter wheat is in doubt as to final outcome than in any year since the spring of 1940. This acreage is in the southern half of the Great Plains from Nebraska and Kansas through Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

The need for food and feed conservation is emphasized by the small corn supply on hand. Stocks of corn on farms April 1 were estimated at 849 million bushels. This is a third less than that on hand a year ago and the smallest since 1937.

The crop report points out that feed supplies are very low and, thus there is greater need now than ever before to conserve our feed stocks with special emphasis on insect and rat control.

The shortage of feed grains and resulting high prices of food have cut down our milk supply. The number of milk cows, as of March, was lower than at any time since the fall of 1939. The total quantity of milk was less than in any March since 1941. This, in spite of the fact that milk production per cow was the highest for any March except in 1947.

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Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has boosted this country's spring exports of wheat and flour by 16,000,000 bushels. His action followed the first step taken by the newly created Economic Cooperation Administration, headed by Paul G. Hoffman. The ECA ordered the purchase of \$21,000,000 in supplies, mostly food, for export under the European Recovery Program.

The International Emergency Food Council, Secretary Anderson declared in a statement, may now count on 466,000,000 bushels of wheat and flour as a "firm goal" for shipment to hungry people overseas before June 30. This is still 30 - 40 million bushels less than what the U.S. would like to be able to ship.

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The continuing need for food conservation is highlighted in a recent report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The FAO declared:

"In view of world prospects, there is continuing need for (1) international allocation of scarce foods and production materials, (2) steps to make the best use of current food supplies, (3) efforts to expand food production within the next few years."

The FAO took note of good world grain prospects but cautioned that the Northern Hemisphere harvests are months away. The point is implicit that we cannot afford to gamble on favorable weather's assuring bumper grain crops.

Continuing its note of caution, the FAO pointed out that carry-over grain stocks at the end of the current crop year will be very low, and live-stock numbers will be smaller than a year ago. It stated:

"The world still needs more than one good crop year even to restore prewar levels of food supplies in all areas."

This summary took account of the fact that war-devastated countries in general are below prewar standards of eating. Large world areas, it said, are not even getting the food they received last year.

Furthermore, the report declared that world exportable grains, other than rice, in 1947-48 are estimated at 33,500,000 metric tons, an increase of 4,500,000 tons over the previous year's shipments. But it adds, "As the needs of the deficit countries have increased by at least 8 million tons, however, the grain shortage is acute."

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There is no better time than the present for consumers to use economical cuts of meat and meat extenders in their daily diets as an aid to the family budget and a check rein against high prices.

Despite the sharp declines in February, meat animal prices are now higher than any period before decontrol in 1946, and are still near the 1947 record yearly averages. As the seasonally low meat production of spring and summer approaches, prices of meat animals may be expected to rise moderately if the demand continues at present levels. And, because of reduced supplies of grain-fed cattle, prices of the better grades of steers probably will rise more than seasonally next summer and early fall.

The number of livestock in this country is the lowest in eight years. On January 1, 133 million grain-consuming animals were on farms. This is about 4 per cent fewer than a year ago, 23 per cent below 1944, and the smallest number since 1939.

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Federal-State cooperation should result in better control of the European corn borer in the heart of the corn belt this summer. Funds are being made available to the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine by the Office for Food and Feed Conservation to augment corn borer control work already going forward in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The fight against the highly destructive European corn borer has been undertaken as a part of the food and feed conservation program. The four states named are among the hardest hit by the corn borer in 1947. Losses last year were estimated at nearly 97 million dollars with Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Indiana bearing about half this loss.

A fact sheet showing the steps necessary to combat the corn borer is being issued by the Office for Food and Feed Conservation and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for use of agricultural workers and others. Exhibits for use at State and County Fairs, and panel displays for use of county agents are in preparation by the Department of Agriculture.

(NOTE: You can obtain the fact sheet by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.)

#### FREEDOM GARDENS

The National Garden Institute has sent us excerpts from letters received from leaders in the Freedom Gardens Program.

From L. W. Corbett, Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn.:

"Our program is getting shaped up. There is considerable interest in Minneapolis for both adult and junior gardens... We had a meeting at noon today, and the thought was brought out that possibly we could have a mid-summer picnic for the school children and that admission would be some item from their own garden. I think this has considerable merit and should keep interest in the gardening during the summer period. The main thing we are stressing this year with our adult gardens is the furnishing of speakers for garden clubs and the dissemination of printed information. We are having quite a few requests for speakers and I believe it indicates more interest in gardening than in the past several years."

From Norvell Gillespie, Regional Director of the National Garden Institute, San Mateo, California:

"Our demonstration Freedom Garden in Los Angeles on Wilshire Boulevard is coming along pretty well... With the billboard back of it, it is expected to draw a lot of attention. The billboard is lighted at night.

"Incidentally, with the cooperation of the San Francisco City College and Harry Nelson, we expect to put in at least two demonstration Freedom Gardens here in the city and have billboards back of them plugging the overall program.

From William L. Favinger, Regional Director of the National Garden Institute, Detroit, Michigan.:

"We are still getting calls and requests for garden literature as a result of the article by Dr. Bruce Douglas on the health of Detroit citizens with reference to vegetables. He said, 'A survey showed that 72% of the people in Detroit do not eat enough vegetables.' Within the last week we had three new requests from public relations agencies for garden information and other literature to help them in editing or writing articles on gardening... Two new industries have become activated this year... Starting from scratch they, naturally, needed all the material we could supply so we put to good use some of the old manuals on how to organize company-employee gardens... By and large, there is a greater interest in gardening here from people who have'nt been identified with it before than we have seen in the last two years..."

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The Mayor's Food and Feed Conservation Committee of Newark, N. J., is cooperating with the Shade Tree Bureau of the Department of Parks and Public

Property in a Freedom Gardens project. Mayor Vincent J. Murphy has enlisted the cooperation of the Rutgers Agricultural and Experimental Station in New Brunswick, N.J. He has obtained some valuable literature on gardening from the station.

Members of the food committee and Mayor Murphy recently were presented with certificates in recognition of their fine services during the past six months. The presentation was made by Chester A. Halnan, Director of the New York Office for Marketing U. S. Department of Agriculture's Production and Marketing Administration.

Members of the committee receiving certificates were:

William F. McDonald, Chairman; Alexander C. Allan; Mrs. Evelyn M. Jeffrey; Mrs. Olindo Marzulli; Mrs. Estelle M. Morris; Mrs. Amelia Steinmetz; Dr. Charles V. Craster; John J. O'Donnell; Peter R. Nehemkis; Ray Santera; Diran A. Kurk and Abraham Silverstein, Executive Secretary to the Committee.

#### FAIR EXCHANGE

We've received a letter from J. R. Adams, Associate Editor of the Dairyland Farmer which has a circulation of 60,000 in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and upper Michigan. He writes:

"A monthly feature of the Dairyland Farmer is an agricultural News-letter and your publication would prove valuable to us in preparing that feature. At the same time it would probably be valuable to you in extending the information from your publication to our readers."

We will keep you informed on events in Washington and the programs of local committees and organizations. We welcome your suggestions and invite you to send us news of your activities in the voluntary food and feed conservation program.